

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01172 181613Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSA-01 SSM-05

IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-10 /102 W

-----182303 096474 /63

R 181513Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1848

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO RIYADH

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

UNCLASS DAMASCUS 1172

AMMAN ALSO FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR FEB 17

1. SUMMARY: ASAD'S RETURN FROM ROMANIA DOMINATED MEDIA.
QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE MEETING WITH MARONITE PATRIARCH
REPORTED, AS WAS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE
PLEDGING TO HONOR RIYADH AND CAIRO SUMMIT DECISIONS AND TO END
EXCESSES OF PALESTINIAN INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS. FORTHCOMING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01172 181613Z

KHARTOUM MEETINGS WILL DEAL WITH PALESTINIAN QUESTION, GENEVA,
AND SUDAN'S MEMBERSHIP IN SYRO-EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COMMAND,
ACCORDING SYRIAN CHARGE IN KHARTOUM. EDITORIAL URGED U.S.
DEAL WITH QUESTION OF PALESTINIANS AND THEIR "RIGHT" TO ESTABLISH
INDEPENDENT STATE. PALESTINIAN RIGHTS DEFINED AS REPATRIA-
TION AND ESTABLISHMENT INDEPENDENT STATE. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN MEDIA FOCUSED ON RETURN OF PRES ASAD FROM TWO-DAY TRIP TO BUCHAREST. AL-BAATH HEADLINED: "JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE TALKS STRESSES NEED FOR RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH PLO PARTICIPATION." ACCOMPANYING ARTICLES PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE AND STATEMENTS BY CEAUDESCU SUPPORTIVE OF ARAB POSITIONS IN THEIR CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL.

3. PROMINENCE GIVEN MEETING OF QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE IN LEBANON WHICH SAID TO HAVE DEALT MAINLY WITH IMPLEMENTATION CAIRO AGREEMENT. COMMITTEE MEMBERS THEN VISITED MARONITE PATRIARCH. PRESS PUBLISHED PATRIARCH KHREISH'S STATEMENTS MADE AFTER MEETING IN WHICH HE ASSERTED COMMITTEE AND INFORMED HIM IT INTENDED TO ASSIST LEBANON BECOME "EVEN BETTER STATE THAN IT USED TO BE." HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING, "WE ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTION OF SOUTH IN PARTICULAR AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE HAVE PROMISED TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO RESTORE CALM AND STABILITY TO SOUTHERN REGION."

4. PRESS ALSO REPORTED COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF FATAH DEPLORING "THE EXCESSES, ILL CONDUCT, AND MALPRACTICES CARRIED OUT BY GROUPS INSIDE PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON WHICH RESULTED IN KILLING NUMBER OF ADF TROOPS WHO PERFORMING TASKS OF MAINTAINING SECURITY IN LEBANON." COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT FATAH SAW IT HAD DUTY TO OPERATE THROUGH PLO AND TO ADOPT MEASURES AIMED AT ENDING ACTS BY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUP TRYING TO HARM THE "PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION." COMMUNIQUE REITERATED COMMITMENT TO RIYADH AND CAIRO SUMMITS AND NOTED THAT PALESTINIANS WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION IMPLEMENTATION OF 1969 CAIRO ACCORD IN LETTER AND SPIRIT. DOCUMENT PLEDGED COOPERATION WITH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 01172 181613Z

CONFRONTATION STATES AND DENIED ANY CONTACTS HAD OCCURRED WITH ISRAEL OR DOCUMENT DELIVERED TO ANY PARTY (READ AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY) RECOGNIZING ISRAEL.

5. SYRIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN KHARTOUM REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY THAT FORTHCOMING SUMMIT AMONG PRESIDENTS OF SUDAN, EGYPT, AND SYRIA WILL CONSTITUTE NEW DEPARTURE IN ARAB AFFAIRS WHICH WILL EFFECT PALESTINIAN ISSUE. HE STATED MEETING WOULD DRAW UP PLAN CONCERNING PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE ALSO STATED THAT LEADERS WOULD DISCUSS INCLUSION OF SUDAN IN UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND.

6. EDITORIAL IN THAWRA DEALT WITH SECRETARY'S VISIT AND PEACE PROSPECTS. VANCE'S TOUR CALLED "IMPORTANT" DESPITE LACK OF CURRENT US PEACE PLAN AND INTENTION TO ONLY GATHER INFORMATION AT THIS TIME. IMPORTANT POINT NOT LOCATION OF RECONVENED MEPC BUT RESULTS EMERGING FROM CONFERENCE, AND BASIS OF ITS RECONVOCAION. EDITORIAL NOTED ISRAELI REFUSAL TO ACCEPT PLO REPRESENTATION AND ARAB INSISTENCE ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

"INCLUDING REPATRIATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS INDEPENDENT NATIONAL STATE." DISCREPANCY SAID THEREFORE TO EXIST AND EDITORIAL ASKED RHETORICALLY IF VANCE WOULD BE CAPABLE FINDING FORMULA "TO PREVENT THE SITUATION FROM FLARING UP/AND TO ENSURE ESTABLISHMENT OF GENUINE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE." EDITORIAL THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF ISRAELI DEMAND FOR SECURE BORDERS AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. FAMILIAR THEME SOUNDED THAT WHEN ISRAELI STRESSES SECURE BORDERS IT PUTTING FORWARD UNREALISTIC TERMS AS IT DOES WHEN IT REFUSED PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA AND PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO REPATRIATION AND SELF-DETERMINATION. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED SAYING, "IT IS NECESSARY VANCE REALIZE THAT THERE WILL BE NEITHER GENEVA NOR PEACE UNLESS SUBSTANCE OF CONFLICT IS TREATED, NAMELY, CAUSE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL STATE. ANYTHING SHORT OF THIS WILL UNDERMINE ALL AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE. IT MAY IN FACT LEAD TO WAR FOR WHICH BOTH AMERICA AND ISRAEL WOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 DAMASC 01172 181613Z

7. COMMENT: EDITORIAL COMMENT GENERALLY REFRAINS FROM SPELLING OUT ANY SPECIFIC SYRIAN DEFINITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. FORMULATION IN THIS THAWRA EDITORIAL IS NOT NEW BUT AGAIN REAFFIRMS THAT REPATRIATION AND ESTABLISHMENT INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE FOR PRESENT REMAINS PUBLIC SYRIAN DEFINITION OF THOSE RIGHTS. MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC01172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770059-0327
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770228/aaaaaytw.tel
Line Count: 146
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 74a67cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3284618
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR FEB 17
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/74a67cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009